SOUTH VIET NAM *In struggle*

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★

DAZIMINA HANOI
19 Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and other South Viet Nam NFL Missions in foreign countries

The most beautiful thing in Plain of Reeds is the lotus flower,
And the finest thing in Viet Nam is Uncle Ho's name.
(Folk poem of South Viet Nam)

JOHN SPRAGENS, JR.

NFL Central Committee greets President HO CHI MINH's 79th birthday

"Esteemed President,

ON the occasion of your 79th birthday, the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation wishes to convey to you the expression of the boundless love, respect and profound belief from the entire Southern compatriots, cadres and fighters and their best wishes of good health and longevity.

This year, our entire people are celebrating your 79th birthday at a time when the North has gloriously defeated the US war of destruction, and is endeavouring to heal the wounds of war caused by the US, pushing ahead the socialist construction and doing its utmost to contribute with the South to the fight against the common enemy. We are also celebrating your 79th birthday at a time when our people and army in the South, bringing into full play the victorious and strong position, are continuously attacking the enemy and rising up, thus winning all-round and ever bigger victories and are steadily marching forward to defeat the US and puppets completely for the complete liberation of South Viet Nam.

Our nation, under your clear-sighted leadership, has risen up from slavery to struggle with the resolve to win back independence and freedom. For

(Continued page 7)

Photo above :
Uncle Ho surrounded by Army Heroes and Valiant Fighters from the South Viet Nam NFL Delegation on a visit to North Viet Nam.

President HO CHI MINH thanks NFL

On May 23, 1969, President Ho Chi Minh sent a message of thanks to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL CC. In this message, President Ho Chi Minh wrote :

"Under the clear-sighted leadership of the National Front for Liberation, the heroic compatriots and fighters of South Viet Nam, bringing into full play the victorious and strong position of the period of general offensive and uprising, have recorded many new resounding feats of arms in Spring this year and at the same time won repeated and big political and diplomatic victories. The ten-point solution recently put forward by the NFL is reasonable and sensible and certainly enjoys unanimous support from the entire Vietnamese people and sympathy from our friends in all the five continents.

Though sustaining big failure, the US imperialists still are trying to hold on to South Viet Nam and resorting to many extremely brutal and perfidious manoeuvres. But our nation is advancing powerfully toward the day of glorious victory. The Fatherland earnestly calls on our dear compatriots and fighters in South Viet Nam to overcome all difficulties and enthusiastically rush forward to record many more decisive victories."

LAM THI BE

BY THAI HA

LAM THI BE is the eldest child of Nguyen Thi Ut, the well-known PLAF heroine. She is only 12, yet takes upon herself all the household chores so that her parents may go and fight the Yanks.

When she was 10, she started working as a courier for the local guerillas. Often she would row her boat across the river, four kilometres wide at that place, to collect intelligence on the enemy.

American aircraft continuously swarm overhead, like dung-beetles. One day a helicopter hovered above the village, and a loudspeaker called on the Liberation troops to surrender. Little Be was so furious she cupped her hands like a megaphone and shouted back: "The PLAF have gone out to attack your posts. Only the junior PLAF are home, and they never surrender!"

(Extract from "The Mother with A Gun" by Nguyen Thi)

PEOPLE, ARMYMEN AND CADRES OF NATIONALITIES COMMENDED BY THE NFL

ON the occasion of the 8th founding anniversary of the Movement for the Autonomy of the Highlands Peoples, May 19, Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, sent a message to the people, armymen and cadres in the region.

The message reads in part :

"ON behalf of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee, we warmly congratulate and praise the long-standing unity, valiant struggle and outstanding achievements of the people, armymen and cadres of the Western Highlands nationalities who have made a worthy contribution to the resistance against US aggression to secure victory for the revolution.

"Though doomed to fail, the American aggressors are still very obdurate and nurture machiavellian schemes, witness the recent massacre of over 300 of our compatriots at Kong H'Ring. The crimes of the US invaders and their lackeys against the South Vietnamese people as a whole, and against the Western Highlands nationalities over the past fifteen years, have been piling up like fallen leaves in the forest. For this the American aggressors and their agents shall have to pay with their blood.

"Our resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, is heading towards final victory. It engenders more harships and demands that our armymen and people show a higher fighting spirit. We are determined to tide over all difficulties so as to defeat the US invaders and liberate the South and our beautiful and wealthy Western Highlands".

ON the occasion of the 8th founding anniversary of the Movement for the Autonomy of the Highlands People, Ybih Aleo, President of the Movement, sent a message to the people, armymen and cadres in the region, calling on them to give full support to the NFL ten-point overall solution on the South Vietnamese problem, as it thoroughly meets the aspirations and interests of the South Vietnamese people.

He urged them to further strengthen their unity, increase and protect production, devote more human and material resources to the revolution, display sharper vigilance to thwart the enemy's enticement, and struggle against pressganging and the building of "strategic hamlets".

Ybih Aleo, moreover, called on the soldiers, officers, employees and functionaries still in the puppet army and administration to clearly realize the situation in South Viet Nam, cross over to the people's side to fight the American aggressors, save their country and themselves, thus atoning for their crimes.

Lastly, he urged the people, armymen and cadres of the Western Highlands nationalities, together with their compatriots in the South, to rush forward on the flush of their victories to wrest power and become for ever masters of their homeland.

Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the NFL Central Committee visiting the Highlands, accompanied by Ybih Aleo, Chairman of the Movement for the Autonomy of the Highlands peoples (on his left).

He is warmly welcomed by minority people.

Photo : GPA

NFL's ceasefire decision on Buddha's birthday

THE Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has decided to suspend armed attacks on the occasion of the 2,513th anniversary of Buddha's birth.

The decision signed by President Nguyen Huu Tho and dated May 25, said :

"...In compliance with the earnest wishes of Buddhist faithful and to create favourable conditions for the people to celebrate Buddha's birthday in security ; and

Proceeding from the NFL's policy for respect for freedom of creed ;

The Presidium of the South Viet Nam NFL Central committee decides :

1. To suspend armed attacks on the whole of South Viet Nam on the occasion of the 2,513th anniversary of Buddha's birth for 2 days beginning 6 a.m., May 29, 1969, Indo—China time (or 7 a.m., May 29, 1969, Saigon time) to 6 a.m. May 31, 1969, Indo—China time (or 7 a.m. May 31, 1969 Saigon time).

2. To allow puppet officers and men and puppet administrative personnel to go to pagoda freely to attend prayers together with Buddhists, or go to the liberated zone to visit their families and observe services with them, provided they do not carry weapons and reconnaissance and spying means.

3. All armed forces throughout South Viet Nam should help and protect Buddhist believers so that they may solemnly celebrate the anniversary in security, and at the same time, heighten revolutionary vigilance and stand ready to punish those cruel, stubborn enemy agents and units that, acting upon the orders of the US aggressors and the puppet ruling circles, disregard the NFL's order by taking acts of provocation and sabotage, conduct raids and bombardments, thus hindering the people's religious practice.

4. The Command of the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces will issue an order to all the liberation armed forces concerning the implementation of this decision."

US-BRAND FREEDOM OF BELIEF

TO throw dust in people's eyes and mislead public opinion, Thieu - Ky - Huong keep on making vociferous protestations about freedom of belief. But how can they shield sunlight with their bloody hands ? Their terrorist repressions and fascist acts against our countrymen of all religious creeds in South Viet Nam are there to unmask them. According to official data released on March 27 this year by the Buddhist Institute office in Saigon, as from May 1966 the same ruling clique resorted to military forces and artillery actions at least a hundred times against pagodas and temples ; they arrested and jailed a sizable number of monks and nuns of the Buddhist community. Typical of their repressions all over Central Trung Bo, Nam Bo and even in Saigon were the bloody ones staged in Da Nang and Hue during the months of May and June 1966. It was the intention of the puppet authorities to curb the fighting spirit of the Buddhist followers who rose up against their "elections to the National Assembly" farce.

From January to June 1966, places of worship and offices of Buddhist organizations were mopped up or illegally occupied. Noteworthy was the action against the Buddhist Institute and An Quang Pagoda, conducted by the notorious wicked thug Nguyen Ngoc Loan himself, Director of the Police Department, on June 23-26. Meanwhile, agents in the pay of Thieu-Ky-Huong kept watch on the leader of the Buddhist youth, Superior Thich Thien Minh, whom they planned to assassinate.

In 1967, with the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique pulling the wires behind the scene, the rank reactionary Thich Tam Chau put forth a new "charter" to oppose that of the Viet Nam Buddhist United Church. Soon afterwards the puppet administration used the 23-6 decree, giving a legal status to the "charter", in an attempt to divide the Buddhist community and pave the way for subsequent repressions.

From 1968 onwards, in execution of this "decree" and on orders from the Saigon administration, a number of Buddhist seminars, pagodas and cultural and social organizations in Saigon, Danang, Hue, Can Tho, Soctrang etc. were repeatedly raided by the armed forces. And in a recent mop-up (April 5, 1969) US-puppet troops killed the priest Xuan Hai of Khmer stock while on his way to Chong Thap Pagoda, wreating 28,000 piasters and an amount of gold from him.

In the past few years, a number of monks and rank-and-file Buddhists were taken into custody and many others pressganged into the army to serve as cannon-fodder. The Chi Hoa prison alone counts at least 108 bonzes among the detainees. Reverend Buu Hue of the Tan Sinh area, (Binh Tuy) was dragged from one jail to another, now in the mainland, now in Con Dao Island. Released after three years' imprisonment, he was immediately drafted into the puppet army.

The first months of the current year have witnessed still more revolting repressions. While at Go Cong in a recent "inspection journey", Nguyen Van Thieu ordered the local authorities to closely watch over and duly punish any monk who would in his sermons talk of peace. Enforcing the fascist October, 1968 law against religious believers who stand for peace, and implementing Thieu's instructions on March 23, 1969, the Saigon authorities tried Superior Thich Thien Minh and eight Buddhist students on the basis of false charges. The former drew ten years' hard labour and five years' reclusion, and the latter eight from three to twenty years' hard labour each. Simultaneously, the puppets requisitioned Quang Duc House, closed down the paper "*Chinh Dao*," organ of the Buddhist community and threatened to chastise members for their peace activities.

Subjected to such repressions and persecutions which have stripped them of all freedoms, South Vietnamese Buddhists have stood up against Thieu - Ky - Huong's dictatorial rule. The struggle of monks and nuns and their fellow-believers in Saigon, Da Nang, Hue, Can Tho, Gia Dinh, Quang Ngai, Nha Trang and other places, testifies to the fighting spirit of the South Vietnamese Buddhist community. The flames of their struggle and of the struggle of the fourteen million people of South Viet Nam will doubtless reduce to ashes the corrupt regime of the Thieu-Ky-Huong gang.

Uncle Ho and the South Vietnamese

JOHN SPRACENS, JR.

Here is Hanoi, so beautiful!
Shining with the glory of her exploits,
Like a fairy, wearing the crimson scarf of the Red River.(1)

Hanoi, the heart of Viet Nam, Hanoi, where lives and works Uncle Ho, in legendary simplicity, his mind constantly turned to the South!

The day of our departure for the North, I read in the eyes of all present how they would like to ask us to transmit to Uncle Ho the love, gratitude and respect brimming their hearts. Like all the members of our Delegation I wished I could have wings to fly to Hanoi!

Now, my dream has come true.

Not only are we treading the soil of the Great Rear of the nation, not only have we received a moving welcome everywhere, but we have been received by Uncle Ho in person.

The day we went to see him, everyone was present. To say that we were treading on air is but a very inadequate way of describing our joy. When the car stopped in the park and I saw the President walking toward us to embrace Dr Phung Van Cung, the head of our delegation, I felt a lump in my throat and tears welling up in my eyes: by his gesture, Uncle Ho was clasping the entire South in his bosom.

The President waved his hand to us. «Don't cry,» he said gently. «Tell me instead how our compatriots down South have managed to inflict such defeats on the Americans.»

He was standing in the midst of us, nimble and full of vitality in spite of his age. His presence was not intimidating, far from it. Encouraged by his gentle smile, I said: "Uncle Ho, before leaving for the North, I made a series of visits: to wounded combatants at the Hoang Le Kha hospital, to trainees at the military schools, to medical students, art students, to cadres and men of a PLAF unit just back from a victorious battle, to peasants of the Mekong delta, to workers in enemy-occupied towns. I can assure you that all nurture the hope of soon welcoming you in Saigon, the city which bears your name in the minds of all Vietnamese. Until then, all send you their respectful wishes of health and longevity and offer you their exploits."

My mind was full of instances of how his name alone had inspired prodigious deeds:

That woman in Tra Vinh who had hidden a portrait of Uncle Ho for 13 years before being able to show it to everyone at a meeting in the liberated zone! That wounded man at Ap Bac who entreated the doctor to save his eyes so he may see Uncle Ho the day of national reunification. That peasant in the Delta who set to work so enthusiastically every day so as, he said, to put forward the day of victory, when he will be able to welcome Uncle Ho. That young girl named P. who fought in the Le Thi Rieng battalion and planted a NFL flag on top of the police headquarters of the 5th ward after killing five blood-thirsty thugs. And that without mentioning other feats of arms in the battle of Den Nam Ngon and the onslaught on the puppet General Staff Headquarters! That girl came to see me in a suburb of Saigon to ask me to transmit, in homage to Uncle Ho, the exploits she and her comrades had performed!

UNDER all circumstances, the image of our great national leader is present in the minds of the South Vietnamese. We are all doing our utmost to bring closer the day when we shall welcome him in the South. All of us still remember that in 1962, when presented with the Order of the Gold Star by the National Assembly, he declined the honour, saying:

"For nearly twenty years, fighting against the French colonialists, then the US-Diem clique, our Southern compatriots have shown themselves to be heroic children of the heroic Vietnamese nation. The South is truly the Bronze Wall of the Fatherland and deserves the highest award. For this reason, here is what I ask of the National Assembly: Let me wait until the day when the South will be wholly liberated, when our reunified fatherland will live in peace and North and South will be re-united under the same roof; that day, with your authorization, I will receive this high distinction from the hands of our Southern compatriots. This way, all our people will feel happy..."

Yes, Uncle Ho, we are all waiting for you in the South, patiently and faithfully.

Mrs NGUYEN THI RAO
Member of the NFL Delegation visiting North Viet Nam in March 1969.

(1) From a poem by Le Anh Xuan (South Viet Nam)

Still obdurate and perfidious

WILLY nilly, Nixon had to own that the war in Viet Nam is "our most difficult and urgent problem," that "there was a wide gulf of distrust between Washington and Saigon, which hindered cooperation," and that "the Americans want to end this war."

What is then the main contents of Nixon's address and what is Nixon's true design behind all these allegations, which were aimed at both soothing and inciting the American people, and also at courting and slandering the Vietnamese people?

It must be pointed out in the first place that Nixon did not say a word about respecting the Vietnamese people's basic national rights, i.e. independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, which the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam have recognized and which have been given top priority in the overall solution put forth recently by the NFL.

As usual, Nixon stuck to the absurd demand for "mutual withdrawal" rejected again and again at the Paris Conference by the delegations of the NFL and the DRVN Government. As if he had something really constructive to say, Nixon announced his 8-point program, in which he proposed that "over a period of twelve months," "non-South Vietnamese forces would be withdrawn" and that "at the end of this twelve-month period," "the remaining... non-South Vietnamese forces would move into designated base areas," without specifying the date for the complete withdrawal of US and satellite forces from South Viet Nam.

Nixon tried to oppose the reasonable measures tabled in the NFL's overall solution, which reflecting a spirit of broad national concord, are aimed at securing the South Vietnamese people's right of self-determination. Nixon spoke about "not imposing any form of government upon the people of South Viet Nam" and of "free elections." Yet, Nixon showed his preference to the Nguyen Van Thieu clique of lackeys, and demanded "all persons and groups" to "renounce the use of force" in order "to participate freely in the political life of South Viet Nam." Nixon also spoke of "speeding up the strengthening of the South Vietnamese (puppet) forces" and referred to the six points proposed by Thieu, who is demanding the US to stay on and asking the South Vietnamese people to stop fighting US aggression.

Nixon tried his hardest to confuse the right and the wrong. He sought to put on a par himself, the US expeditionary army and the satellite forces that are massacring the Vietnamese people, and the latter who are the victim of the US aggression and are resolutely resisting that aggression. Nixon's May 14 address made clear the stand of the new US administration — to pursue obstinately the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, maintain the illegal occupation of South Viet Nam by the US stick to the rotten Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration, and beef up the puppet army for a continued war and for the realization of US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam. This is Nixon's old scheme to seek a "position of strength" put in a way he believes to be more toothsome.

Just while Nixon was delivering his 8-point "peace program," the continuous war efforts he had made during his first hundred days office were stepped up. On the night of May 14, B52 aircraft pounded an area 20 miles northwest of Saigon with 500 tons of bombs, shaking window panes even in the city. The following day, B52s conducted 8 attacks within 12 hours against Dakto, Binh Long and Long Khanh areas. Ground operations were also intensified. The one around Tam Ky and Da Nang in Quang Nam province on May 15 alone was sheltered by 70 B 52 attacks, 528 sorties of jet fighter-bombers, and nearly 5,500 helicopter sorties (AFP, May 16).

That is why Nixon "peace program" is in fact a program of bigger war efforts for the massacres in South Viet Nam as well as for the repression at home.

The progressive people in the USA and the South Vietnamese people, however will deal accordingly with the obdurate, crafty and ruthless American war-maniacs, and the world public in general will condemn still more strongly Nixon and other warlike rulers in the United States.

The NFL's stand is correct and just, and its attitude is serious and reasonable. The US government will only court still heavier defeats as long as it goes on opposing the South Vietnamese people's fully legitimate demands for peace, independence, democracy and neutrality as pointed out in the NFL's overall solution, so long as it refuses the just demand made by the American people, the Vietnamese people and the world's people as a whole for an end to the unjust, immoral war of the United States in South Viet Nam and the withdrawal of all US and satellite troops from here without any condition whatsoever.

The responsibility, then, rests entirely on the Nixon administration which, out of obduracy, is making the situation in South Viet Nam worsen and preventing the Paris Conference from making progress, contrary to the just desire of the Vietnamese people, the progressive people in the United States and other people cherishing peace and justice all over the world.

GPA COMMENTATOR

The PLAF seizing an enemy tank in the city

Photo: GPA

Editorial

FUNDAMENTAL NATIONAL RIGHTS: THE PRINCIPLE OF QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE

RESPECT for the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people is a question of principle which has been raised first and fore most in the "Principles and main content of the overall solution to the South Vietnamese problem to help restore peace in Viet Nam" put forth by the NFL at the Paris Conference. This question of principle stems from the sacred, inviolable rights of all peoples, from the urgent demands and earnest aspirations of all social strata in Viet Nam, irrespective of nationalities, religions and political tendencies.

To everyone's knowledge, the war in South Viet Nam—part and parcel of their Fatherland that all Vietnamese have at heart — is due to the American imperialists' aggression. Lying at its root is Washington's ambition to occupy South Viet Nam and turn it into a military base and a neo-colony of its own. The US government's policy of brutal intervention and aggression constitutes a very gross violation of the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Vietnamese people. With its scheme of perpetuating the partition of Viet Nam, the US government has set up a puppet administration and a mercenary army as an instrument of aggression and domination. Moreover, it has introduced tens of thousands of military advisers and then a whole expeditionary force of almost six hundred thousand men to wage a war of aggression against South Viet Nam. Under the US-puppets' fascist rule, democratic freedoms are cynically flouted. Everyday, with modern war means, American, satellite and puppet troops most savagely repress, terrorize and massacre the South Vietnames population, piling up untold crimes.

Faced with invasion and the danger of being enslaved, no people has ever failed to rise up for the defence of their independence and freedom. And it is for independence and freedom that the people of South VietNam, over the past fifteen years, have united, resolutely stood up, used their sacred right of self-defence and struggled with perseverance and marvellous courage against the American aggressors and native traitors. Their national-liberation struggle is a patriotic and just one, which is approved and shared by the entire Vietnamese people, and has won the sympathy and support of the world people, the American included.

The war in South Viet Nam opposes the US imperialist aggressors and their henchmen, traitors to the nation, on the one hand, and on the other the South Vietnamese people fighting against aggression, for the safeguard of their independence and freedom. Therefore, to end the war the United States must end aggression. Peace in Viet Nam is altogether linked to our people's genuine independence and freedom, to the respect of their fundamental national rights. Proceeding from this actual situation the NFL has raised the following question of principle: "The US government must withdraw from South Viet Nam all US troops, military personnel, arms and war matériel, and all troops, military personnel, arms and war materiel of the other foreign countries of the US camp without posing any condition whatsoever, liquidate all US military bases in South Viet Nam, and renounce all encroachments on the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of South Viet Nam and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam". That is the inevitable way to a correct settlement of the South Vietnamese problem to help restore peace in Viet Nam; that is also the honourable way for the United States government to get out of its war of aggression costly in resources and manpower.

The Nixon administration, however, has so far trodden the opposite way. While making repeated "peace" professions, they just pass over the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people in silence in their socalled "peace program". They hold on to their absurd demand for "mutual withdrawal" and put forth a "time table" for such a withdrawal which in essence boils down to prolonging US military occupation of South Viet Nam, to continueing the aggressive war, and setting conditions for the pullout of American and satellite troops.

As pointed out by Mr Tran Buu Kiem at the 18th plenary session of the Paris Conference, "the demand 'for mutual withdrawal' is a de facto denial of the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights as well as their sacred, inviolable right of self defence. By tabling such a demand the United States puts on the same footing the aggressor and the resister to aggression, and confuses two problems — one regarding the relation between the United States and the Vietnamese people, and the other regarding the relation between the Vietnamese themselves". The Vietnamese people are fighting on their own land for the defence of their independence and freedom. The sole aggressor troops in South Viet Nam are those of the United States and its satellites. The US must withdraw all these troops without setting any condition. There is no question of "mutual withdrawal". The problem dealing with the Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam concerns the Vietnamese alone and will be resolved by the Vietnamese parties among themselves, without American interference.

TO respect the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people is the principle of all questions of principle. To withdraw all American and satellite troops from South Viet Nam without posing whatever condition constitutes the key to a peaceful settlement of the South Vietnamese issue. These are questions of principle which cannot be an object for bargaining. There will be no genuine peace in Viet Nam if the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people are trampled underfoot, and if the US expeditionary troops continue occupying South Viet Nam. For this reason, so long as there remains an aggressor on their land, and so long as they do not achieve genuine independence and freedom, the South Vietnamese people, under the NFL patriotic banner and with increasing sympathy and support from the world peoples, including the American, will go on using their sacred right of self-defence, and in this undertaking they will surely win complete victory.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

We will win at any cost our sacred national rights

SPEAKING first at the 17th session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam Tran Buu Kiem, Head of the delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, stressed that the ten-point overall solution of the NFL is a new manifestation of its just stand, serious attitude and spirit of broad national concord. Not only is it warmly welcomed and supported by the Vietnamese people at home and abroad but it is also highly valued by sober-minded public opinion in the United States and the rest of the world, which regards it as a "big peace initiative", the "broadest, most detailed proposal", "realistic", "rational and appropriate", and a contribution to taking the Paris Conference out of the present deadlock caused by the US and Saigon administration.

Refuting the "mutual troop withdrawal" formula repeated by Nixon in his May 14 speech, Tran Buu Kiem said: It is public knowledge that the US and satellite troops are the only foreign aggressor troops in South Viet Nam, and their presence there constitutes in the most serious manner upon the fundamental national rights of the South Vietnamese people, of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and international law. To end this US aggressive war, and respect the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, the US must withdraw all these troops from South Viet Nam without posing any condition. As for the Vietnamese people, by fighting in defence of their Fatherland, they exercice their sacred, inviolable right to self-defence.

President Nixon also spoke of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, but he did not conceal his intention to continue beefing up the puppet army and maintain the US-installed Thieu-Ky-Huong administration. He moreover praised the 6 points advanced by Nguyen Van Thieu whereby the latter urged the NFL to lay down arms so as "to be able to freely participate in the political life" of the Saigon regime.

Thus, Tran Buu Kiem stressed, it is clear that the Nixon administration still pursues a "position of strength" policy and is plotting, through the program for "de-Americanizing" or "Vietnamizing" the war, to carry out the policy of using Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese and maintain US neocolonialism in South Viet Nam.

In conclusion, Tran Buu Kiem stressed: So far, the responsibility for the prolongation of the war and the lack of progress of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam rests with the US. From now on, how the situation will develop will also depend on the US.

If the US government really wants to get out of its war of aggression which is costly in lives and material resources and impairs the US prestige, it must pull American and satellite troops out of South Viet Nam without posing any condition whatsoever, it must abandon the bellicose and rotten Thieu-Ky-Huong administration and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs without foreign interference. On the contrary, if the US government persists in intensifying its war of aggression pursueing the policy of negotiating on a "position of strength", the South Vietnamese people, under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam NFL, will exercise their right to fight in self-defence in order to win at any cost their sacred national rights.

At the 18th session of Paris Conference, Tran Buu Kiem, highlighted the support from broad public opinion in Viet Nam and the world for the ten-point overall solution set forth by the NFL, particularly the unreserved support voiced by the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces (South Viet Nam) in its Central Committee's statement on May 15, 1969, and by the recent Stockholm "Conference for Urgent Actions for Viet Nam" in its appeal on May 18, 1969.

Tran Buu Kiem stressed:

"The war in South Viet Nam originated in the US intervention and aggression. The US aggression constitutes a serious infringement upon the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and international law. In order to defend their fundamental national rights, namely independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, the Vietnamese people have exercised their sacred right to self-defence to fight aggression. That is why, to restore peace in South Viet Nam, the US must stop war of aggression and respect the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, that is to withdraw from South Viet Nam all US troops and the troops of the other foreign countries in the US camp without posing any condition whatsoever.

Tran Buu Kiem stressed that the absurd demand for "mutual troop withdrawal" which President Nixon repeated in his speech on May 14 proved that the US still denied the fundamental national rights as well as the sacred and unalienable right to self-defence of the Vietnamese people. Through such a demand, Tran Buu Kiem added, the US has put the aggressor and the fighter against aggression on the same level and confused the problem arising between the US and the Vietnamese people with that concerning among the Vietnamese themselves.

Dealing with the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people and the problem of a coalition government, Tran Buu Kiem pointed out: The modalities for choosing a political regime and building an administration as put forth in the fourth point of the overall solution are fully democratic.

The NFL stand on the setting up of a coalition government as expounded in the fifth point of the overall solution is a fully realistic stand that clearly reflects the policy of great unity and the spirit of broad national concord advocated by the South Viet Nam NFL which are welcomed by various social strata in South Viet Nam.

Tran Buu Kiem went on: While speaking of "free elections", President Nixon has kept quiet about the question of the coalition government.

Moreover, he has praised Nguyen Van Thieu's demand that those who are fighting against aggression "be prepared to renounce force" and participate in the elections "in accordance with the constitution" of the Saigon puppet administration. This is tantamount to compelling the South Viet Nam NFL and people to lay down their weapons and live under the US lackeys administration, an ambition that the US has not managed to achieve through a brutal war of aggression.

Mr Tran Buu Kiem then condemned the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration for brazenly boasting about the "constitutional and legitimate character" of its regime. He pointed out: The Thieu-Ky-Huong administration has been rigged up by the US and is an instrument for US aggression. It is not legal nor does it represent anyone. Its so-called "constitution" and the laws it has promulgated under the command and control of the US are aimed against the people. The persistent maintenance of this administration by the US seriously infringes upon the right to self-determination and the aspiration for peace of the South Vietnamese people. Therefore, the South Viet Nam NFL resolutely supports the movement of the urban population in South Viet Nam for the replacement of Thieu-Ky-Huong and the establishment of a peace cabinet with a view to promptly ending the war. The South Viet Nam NFL is ready to conduct talks with persons of goodwill who favour peace, independence and neutrality.

Tran Buu Kiem then denounced the US for continueing to intensify its aggression in South Viet Nam and recently using 7-ton bombs to devastate forests and the people's dwellings and also resorting to gaz-bombs in A Shau. Meanwhile, he said, the US-paid administration has carried on terrorism in South Viet Nam cities.

The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces on May 15 issued a statement voicing complete support for the NFL's 10-point overall solution.

The statement, signed on behalf of the Committee by its President, Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, reads:

"... THIS was an event of extremely great importance marking a new victory of the South Vietnamese people on the political and diplomatic fronts, and reiterating the serious attitude and goodwill of the NFL Delegation at the 4-party Paris Conference.

Indeed, the NFL's 10-point overall solution has correctly reflected the legitimate aspirations of the South Vietnamese people, including those in the towns who have been living directly under the ruthless rule of US neo-colonialism for more than ten years now..."

The statement went on:

"The NFL has thus reaffirmed its serious attitude and goodwill as opposed to the obdurate, bellicose policy of the US and the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique of puppets and traitors.

The NFL's 10-point overall solution is a new manifestation of its just stand and unshakable determination of the South Vietnamese people in their sacred war against the US aggressors and their lackeys. At the same time, on the basis of the realities in South Viet Nam, these 10 points have raised concrete questions and proposed a solution to them in a very reasonable manner, thus showing very clearly a profound spirit of national concord and a firm will to seek peace for the country.

This 10-point overall solution has reaffirmed the basic aspirations of the nation as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements, namely independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity for the Vietnamese people. It is for these fundamental national rights that the Vietnamese people, for more than ten years past and as in the many previous instances throughout their history of glorious resistance, have fought with unstinted sacrifices. Therefore, whatever solution reached at the Paris Conference must ensure these sacred national rights. The Vietnamese people eagerly love peace. But, that must be peace in independence and freedom, for genuine peace can be found only in independence and freedom.

These sacred rights of the nation cannot be secured with the presence in this of the US expeditionary army and the troops of the allies of the U.S. This is quite natural, and this is a principled stand, which no one can distort.

The US, having brought here over half a million troops for overt aggression and having perpetrated bloody crimes unheard-of in the history of all imperialisms, must now put an end to all these immoral, unjust and illegal acts of aggression. It must pull the US troops and the troops of its allies out of South Viet Nam, without the right to ask for reciprocity.

That is the key question to be solved if the US really wants to settle the South Viet Nam issue. That is why, in its 10-point overall solution, the NFL has given prime importance to the question of principle which the US has avoided to do all through these three months at the Paris Conference out of its unwillingness to renounce its dark aggressive design.

And, out of this dark aggressive design, the US has made all the time the same slanderous allegation about 'North Viet Nam committing aggression against South Viet Nam' and has demanded 'mutual withdrawal' in the hope of hiding its aggressive feature and putting on a par the aggressor and the victim of aggression.

The NFL's overall solution has clearly defined the Vietnamese people's sacred right of self-defence. In this connection, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces has already pointed out that whether in the South or in the North, the Vietnamese people are always one, and Viet Nam is always one, and that Vietnamese are duty-bound and are within their right to resist foreign aggressors at any time and on whatever part of Vietnam's territory to defend their Fatherland's independence and freedom.

The NFL's overall solution has also clearly defined the principle of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, and has set forth concrete proposals for the realization of this sacred right.

A Saigon girl self-defence unit preparing for a new attack.
Photo: GPA

NFL OVERALL SOLUTION: BASIS FOR A CORRECT SETTLEMENT

(Statement on May 15, 1969 of the VNANDPF)

The South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination has made it more imperative for the US to pull its troops out of South Viet Nam, so that the South Vietnamese people may decide their own affairs, without foreign interference. The solution has correctly provided that the question of the Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam shall be resolved by the Vietnamese parties among themselves.

The ten-point solution of the South Viet Nam NFL has also pointed out the South Vietnamese people's right to decide their own regime in South Viet Nam and has advocated this by proposing free general elections for a constituent assembly and the setting up of a broad coalition government. The NFL has also declared that 'during the period intervening between the restoration of peace and the general elections, neither party shall impose its political regime on the people of South Viet Nam. The political forces representing the various social strata and political tendencies in South Viet Nam that stand for peace, independence and neutrality, including those persons who, for political reasons, have to live abroad, will enter into talks to set up a provisional coalition government based on the principle of equality, democracy and mutual respect with a view to achieving a peaceful, independent, democratic and neutral South Viet Nam.'

It is clear that the said ten-point overall solution has enabled the public at home and abroad to see the spirit of national concord and the goodwill for peace of the NFL in the search for a correct solution to the South Viet Nam situation. It has also manifested an extremely democratic spirit and the respect of all political tendencies on the basis of achieving peace, independence and neutrality in South Viet Nam.

On the contrary, the US which has repeatedly advertised its 'respect for the right to self-determination' of the South Vietnamese people and claimed for so-called 'general elections', 'one man one vote' is actually encroaching grossly upon that right and opposing with tooth and nail all correct view points approving the application of the aforesaid basic principles.

The US is trying to maintain and bolster up the rotten Thieu-Ky-Huong clique which it has set up through fraudulent elections, clique which the people are cursing and seeking to overthrow. It wants to keep general elections under the control of this clique, that is, under the guns and bayonets of its blood-thirsty, bellicose henchmen. Both the master and his servants have rejected all undertakings to form a coalition government.

Through this stand, the US has laid bare its brazen interventionist and aggressive features and exposed its muchvaunted 'desire for peace,' its 'defence of freedom' right to, and its 'respect for, self-determination.'

As assessed above, the ten-point overall solution of the NFL has faithfully reflected the absolutely legitimate aspirations of the South Vietnamese people and, at the same time, worked out concrete measures for settling the South Viet Nam problem in a very fair and reasonable manner and in accordance with realities. The spirit and content of the solution is in complete agreement with the National Salvation Manifesto and the Political Program of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, as well as with the undertakings and policies that the Alliance has pursued for more than a year now.

For these reasons, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces solemnly declares full support for the 'Principles and Main Content of the Overall Solution to the South Viet Nam Problem to Help Restore Peace in Viet Nam,' which Mr. Tran Buu Kiem, Head of the NFL Delegation, presented at the 18th session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

The VNADPF Central Committee firmly believes that the 10-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam NFL constitutes the most correct basis for the settlement of the South Viet Nam problem, to help restore peace in Viet Nam and open bright propects for the defence of peace and security in the Indo-Chinese peninsula as well as in the whole of South-East Asia, and the world...."

THE WHOLE WORLD APPROVES AND SUPPORTS THE NFL OVERALL SOLUTION

At the 16th session of the Paris Conference, last May 8, Mr Tran Buu Kiem, Chief delegate of the National Front for Liberation, acting on the NFL instructions, presented the "principles and main content of the overall solution to the South Vietnamese problem to help restore peace in Viet Nam".

As Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, Deputy Head of the NFL delegation, said: ... "the Front's document takes on an overall character, encompassing many aspects of the solution to the South Vietnamese problem to help restore peace in Viet Nam; it brings out the key question, namely that the United States which is the aggressor in South Viet Nam, must withdraw all American troops and those of the countries of the American side without setting any condition whatsoever; it sets forth a correct viewpoint that the question of the Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam shall be resolved by the Vietnamese parties among themselves. It clearly reflects the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination... Clearly, the document of the NFL is a new expression of its just position and serious and goodwill attitude toward the search for a correct settlement of the South Vietnamese issue to help restore peace in Viet Nam".

Soon after it has been made public, broad segments of world opinion acknowledges the great significance and importance of the 10-point overall solution. This solution resounds far and wide and, it is safe to say, has won over public opinion in every continent. It has earned the warm welcome and active support of the people and governments of many countries. Emphasizing the soundness of the NFL proposition, Foreign Minister Raul Roa Garcia of the Republic of Cuba stated: "It is my firm confidence that all that the Vietnamese comrades do in the military, political and diplomatic fronts is perfectly correct".

The government and people of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Lao Patriotic Front — the companions-in-arms and next-door neighbours of the South Vietnamese people — have lent strong, resolute and timely support to the NFL overall solution.

On May 8, after hearing an expose of the solution by Prof. Nguyen Van Hieu, now ambassador of the National Front for Liberation in Phnom Penh, the Cambodian Foreign Minister, Prince Norodom Phounissara, stressed: "Cambodia always supports the sound stand of the NFL in its just struggle against US aggressor imperialism". On May 13, the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee issued a declaration warmly welcoming and backing the overall solution, regarding it as a very sound one, thoroughly consistent with the actual situation in South Viet Nam at present.

Once presented with the content of the NFL document of paramount importance, leaders of the Parties and Governments of the socialist countries expressed the staunch and resolute support of their governments and peoples, a thing that they had done in the past with regard to the NFL Political Program.

The President of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR — N.V. Podgorny, the President of the Polish People's Republic — Wladislaw Gomulka; the Prime Minister of the Hungarian People's Republic — Jeno Fock; the Vice Premier and Foreign Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — Pak Sung Chul; the Vice Premier of the German Democratic Republic and President of the Committee for solidarity with the Vietnamese people — Max Sefrin; the President of the Mongolian Committee to Support the Vietnamese people's struggle, Central Committee member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Mongolia — L. Zhamyan; Foreign Minister of the Republic of Cuba — Raul Roa Garcia; the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Rumania — Marin Mihai, etc, heartily welcomed the NFL ten-point solution and said they looked upon it as the sole correct basis for the settlement of the South Vietnamese problem, as an important initiative, a goodwill attitude and an expression of the Front's offensive position in external affairs.

As for the Asian and African countries, generally speaking, their attitude toward the NFL overall solution is one of unreserved approval and support and confidence. In their declarations President Houari Boumédienne and Foreign Minister Bouteflika of the Democratic and People's Republic of Algeria, Foreign Minister Mamoud Riad of the United Arab Republic, Information Minister Assad Saker of the Arab Republic of Syria etc., highly appreciate the serious position, goodwill attitude and iron determination of the National Front for Liberation and people of South Viet Nam, which have been expressed in the principles and main content of the proposed overall solution.

The said solution has earned the profound sympathy and momentous backing of international bodies, and non-governmental organizations such as the world Peace Council, the International Democratic Lawyers' association, the International Journalists' Association, the International Union of students, the world Federation of Democratic Youth, the World Students and Youth Federation, the Asian-African People's Solidarity Organization, the Lawyers' Association of the Arab Countries, the Trade Unions of the Arab countries, the Central Council of Trade Unions of the USSR, the Asian-African solidarity committee of the USSR, the USSR Committee to Support Viet Nam, the Soviet-Viet Nam Friendship Association, the USSR Committee of the Defence of peace, the Central Council of Hungarian Trade Unions, the Japan-Viet Nam Friendship association, and many Africa mass orgnisations etc...

Particularly, an International Conference held in Stockholm late in May stated its unreserved support for the overall solution of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and called on people around the world to demand that the United States adopt a correct and serious attitude in dealing with it.

The movement of the world people and widely different governments for backing the NFL "principles and main content of the overall solution to the South Vietnamese problem to help restore peace in Viet Nam", continues spreading. It constitutes a concrete expression of the determination of the peoples in every continent, the American included, to oppose the cruel, dirty war of aggression waged by the United States in South Viet Nam, and to demand that Washington pull out all its troops and those of foreign countries without setting any condition and let the South Vietnamese people settle their own problem in accordance with the solution proposed by the NFL. It encourages our people to march ahead toward complete victory.

Let all people and governments everywhere in the world who shore up this step of the South Vietnamese people in their combat against US aggression find here their sincere and wholehearted thanks.

Neither mountains, nor jungle can stop the advance of the PLAF forging ahead on the impetus of their victories...

From May 11, night, to May 15, 1969

400 military objectives in 80 cities, towns, provincial capitals, district towns attacked

According to *Giai Phong Press Agency*, the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces have, since the night of May 11 attacked nearly 400 military objectives in 80 cities, towns, provincial capitals, district towns and townlets in South Viet Nam. Among the objectives were 23 airfields and 33 bases of enemy regiment, brigade or army corps headquarters.

In term of units, the South Vietnamese patriotic forces wiped out or heavily decimated 15 battalions and battalion sized cantonments, and one armoured group.

It then dealt with some of the battlefronts in South Viet Nam.

In the battlefront in Quang Tri-Thua Thien (the northern most provinces of South Viet Nam):

Attacks were launched on over 20 enemy positions in Quang Tri-Thua Thien region in the small hours of May 12, upsetting the defence line put up by the US Marines along Highway 9, US-puppet command posts, logistical bases and major strongholds in Cua Viet, Dong Ha, Sa Huu, Tan Lam, Gio Linh and Cam Lo were subject to artillery and ground attacks, and gazoline and ammunition dumps burned and exploded for hours.

Breaking through the defence line of US paratroops along Highway 12 in the western part of Thua Thien province, the PLAF repeatedly assaulted the various operational bases of the US 101st Airborne Division, killing or wounding nearly 900 enemy, and demolishing hundreds of blockhouses, bunkers and barracks, and dozens of fuel and ammunition stores, vehicle parks and artillery sites.

In the Central part of Trung Bo, the PLAF hit over 220 positions in 7 towns and provincial capitals and 26 district capitals, townlets and military sub-sectors. Enemy casualties — nearly 4,000 US and satellite troops and over 3,000 puppet soldiers — totalled 5 battalions, one motorized group, 3 battalion headquarters and nearly 20 companies.

Material losses inflicted on the enemy included over 100 military vehicles mostly tanks and armoured troop carriers, 53 cannons, 6 major supply bases, 87 aircraft and about 300 firearms. Of the objectives under attack were over 30 base camps and headquarters from battalion to army corps echelons, 14 airfields, and 6 logistical areas.

Many military convoys were destroyed on Highways 14 and 19. In Kontum, Gia Lai and Binh Dinh provinces, major roads, such as National Highway 1, were cut, causing added difficulties to the enemy already deprived of air and river transport.

In **the eastern part of Nam Bo** (provinces northeast of Saigon) simultaneous attacks were sprung on most of the enemy positions around Saigon and in Binh Long, Phuoc Long, Tay Ninh, Tan Dau Mot, Long An, Gia Dinh and Long Khanh provinces, with the hardest punches delivered at the main defence lines and major troop concentrations.

In Tay Ninh northwest of Saigon, the PLAF put under fire over 20 objectives, wiping out 2 Air Cav. battalions in Ba Chiem and Soc Ta Te on the night of May 11 and on May 14.

North of Saigon, the PLAF on the night of May 12 simulfaneously attacked the Hon Quan base and the Tech Nich airfield, killing or wounding nearly 1,000 GIs of the Air Cav. and the 1st Infantry Division, and destroying 105 military vehicles mostly tanks and armoured cars, 21 planes, 22 big guns, 3 fire bases, and 4 storages.

The PLAF at the same time trounced a mixed battalion of US troops in Ben Cat area (Thu Dau Mot), while mounting attacks on 25 positions in Long An province southwest of Saigon, including the Binh Chanh, Thu Thua, Ben Luc, Duc Hue and Duc Hoa townships, and the headquarters of the puppet 50th Regiment.

In **the Mekong River delta**, the enemy was taken under fire in 28 provincial capitals, district towns, and military sub-sectors. The headquarters of the puppet 7th Division was heavily shelled, and that of the 10th and 12th Regiments were ground-assaulted. A number of battalions of that division were battered. The various training camps, airfields, artillery grounds and storages were also attacked.

Fighting broke out in every part of Chau Doc province. The Ving Trung base alone was assaulted twice, with 210 puppet troops killed or wounded and 45 planes, 4 big guns, and one ammunition storage destroyed.

Heavy losses were also inflicted on the enemy in Kien Tuong, Kien Phong, Go Cong, Rach Gia, and Ca Mau provinces.

The violent, synchronized attacks by all the three kinds of people's armed forces (main force, regional and guerilla), and their good coordination, have completely overwhelmed the enemy who could only put up a feeble resistance and could hardly go to the rescue of one another.

Young fighters of Hue city

A « BIG RAIDING PARTY »

TODAY was D day. Everything was in tip-top shape. Intelligence had been collected and a detailed plan worked out. B. felt his heart beating wildly as he whispered his last recommendations to his firends A. and X., two young boys his age. The autumn sky was dotted with a thousand stars.

Four months before, the secret revolutionary organisation in Huê city had entrusted this combat mission to them, their first. They had prepared for it as carefully as they could. And today, October 25, here they were all three at their rendez-vous on the bank of the Perfume River, near a ferry.

After parking their bicycles in front of a nearby coffee-house, they leisurely strolled away and joined their combat posts: X. took up position before the Dong Ba police headquarters, A. before that of Gia Hoi; as for B., after planting his mine in a power substation, he came to give support to X.

It was 7 p.m. when B. arrived at Dong Ba. Five minutes later, an explosion shook the earth and the lights went out. B. and X. started hurling grenades into the police building; in the semi-darkness they saw the police superintendent collapsing on his desk and his agents lying about on the ground, crying and moaning. Again, they threw more grenades...

When B. and X. arrived at the rendez-vous, they found A. waiting for them. He too had fulfilled his mission: availing himself of the sudden black-out to plant a FNL flag as a diversionary measure. They nonchalantly headed for the coffee-house, where they ordered drinks.

Soon the electricity was restored. A military jeep appeared, from which a loud-speaker blared forth: « A big raiding party of the Viet cong has just attacked the police headquarters at Dong Ba. »

The three young boys looked at each other smiling mischievously.

A JEEP WHICH BLEW UP ALL BY ITSELF

These last few days, instead of going to school, B. would came and hide in the pine wood near the Tay Loc airfield. From a discreet observation post, he kept watch on the comings and goings of an American captain riding a jeep. A few days' observation was enough to give him all the necessary information about the habits and work schedule of the officer.

Today, at ten a.m., the vehicle pulled up at the roadside, at the usual place. The officer and his aide alighted and went into the airfield. The driver strolled to a nearby bar to have a drink. Quick as lightning, B. came up to the car, slipped home-made time-bomb under the seat of the captain. Then he straddled his bike and was off.

He stopped some distance away and went into a tea-house. Not long after, the jeep appeared at the road. B. joined a group of young students coming back from school. The jeep had just driven past when all of a sudden it was turned into a fireball and an explosion shook the earth...

« Well, what a strange thing, » said B. to his friends, pointing at the wreckage, « a jeep which blew up all by itself ! »

MANIFESTATION OF A GREAT FRIENDSHIP

FOLLOWING is the full text of French little girl Betty Gay's letter to little Mai in liberated zone of South Viet Nam:

Dear Mai,

The mistress talked with us about you. We have read the kind letter you wrote to your mother. I see that you work well at school and that you are very courageous. We are thinking of you very much, you know, and also of the children of Viet Nam.

Mai, I hope that the war will end soon, how happy you'll be then, and you'll be able to see again your mother. You are very kind and look very pretty. We all of the form are your comrades. I hope my letter will please you.

I hug you and wish you happiness.

BETTY GAY

If BETTY GAY's feelings toward little Mai are French children's for the Vietnamese, Mai's hope is also that of children around the world.

Both Ngo Thi Tuyet and her brother Ngo Van Net have been awarded the title of "Valiant Fighter, Victor of the Yanks"

NFL central committee...

—(Continued from page 1)

more than 50 years past, your life and activities have been closely bound to the great revolutionary struggle of our nation. You have become the symbol of our nation's ardent patriotism and staunch revolutionary will and, by devoting all your life to the revolutionary cause of our people and other peoples in the world, you have set a brilliant example of noble revolutionary virtues.

You are also the symbol of the unshakeable one mindedness and unity of our entire people. You have charted out the fully correct and creative way for the Vietnamese revolution and have applied the valuable experiences of the world's revolution to the practical conditions of Viet Nam in leading our entire people to overcome all difficulties and hardships, thus taking the revolution in our country from one victory to another.

The people and National Front for Liberation of South Viet Nam are deeply conscious that the big and all-round victories they have recorded in the fight against US aggression for national salvation are inseparably linked to the solicitude, guide and precious encouragement from yourself, the esteemed leader of our entire nation.

On the occasion of your 79th birthday, allow us to express the deep gratitude and the absolute confidence put in you by all the Southern compatriots, cadres and fighters and the National Front for Liberation. We also take this opportunity to renew to you our pledge to learn from the example of your person who has struggled all his life for the independence, freedom and unity of the Fatherland and the happiness of the entire people. We pledge to persevere in pushing up the struggle on all fronts in order to fulfil in the fullest manner our task entrusted by the nation and our glorious internationalist duty.

The US imperialists have sustained heavy failures and are meeting with many big difficulties in Viet Nam, in the United States and in the world. But obdurate and perfidious by their nature, they still refuse to give up their aggressive design and are pushing their war of aggression in South Viet Nam to an unprecedented level of fierceness, committing many more savage crimes against our people. They are clinging to the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration and are doing all they can to boost up the puppet army as an instrument to materialise their neo-colonialism. But the more they are obstinate, the bigger defeats they will invite upon themselves.

In the extremely urgent and fierce struggle at present, all our compatriots, cadres and fighters in South Viet Nam, to be worthy of the confidence placed in them by you and the seventeen million compatriots in the North, are resolved to surmount all difficulties and endure all sacrifices, bring to full account the present continuous and all-round offensive position on all fronts, in order to win new, bigger all-round victories, to smash every scheme and act of the enemy, hasten the process of breaking the US imperialists' aggressive will and overthrowing the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration, win complete victory and achieve our objectives, viz. independence, democracy, neutrality and prosperity and advancing toward the reunification of the country.

The US imperialist aggressors will surely meet with ignominious defeat.

Our people are bound to win final victory !

May you enjoy good health and a long life !"

LATEST NEWS

It is a great pleasure for SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE to inform its readers that the *Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam* has been set up by the *South Viet Nam Peoples' Representatives Congress* which met on June 6-8, 1969.

The Congress had been decided at a consultative Conference between the NFL and the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government is headed by Architect Huynh Tan Phat, Vice-President of the NFL Presidium.

Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the *NFL* is appointed President of the Conselors' Council.

Documents related to the South Vietnamese Peoples' Representatives Congress and the Provisional Revolutionary Government will be published in the next issue, (in the special number) of the *SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE*.

THE WORLD AND THE NFL OVERALL SOLUTION

CAMBODIA . — Cambodian Head of State, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, on May 25, sent a message to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee voicing full support for the NFL's ten-point overall solution to the South Viet Nam problem.

The message said: «While assuring you of our unreserved support to your peace programme, I reaffirm to you our full solidarity with the NFL now struggling with heroism and success for the complete independence of their country".

LAOS. — In a message to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho on May, Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Laotian Patriotic Front, said: " The principles and content of the overall solution are very just and reasonable because they ensure the South Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and meet the legitimate desire of the Vietnamese people and American people, and also of the Laotian and other peoples all over the world ".

PDR OF KOREA. — In his speech at the reception given in honour of the Premier of the South Yemen, June 4, Premier Kim Il Sung, strongly condemned the US imperialists for their perfidious manoeuvres at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and for their frantic efforts to intensify their war of aggression in South Viet Nam. The Korean leader affirmed the Korean people's full support for the ten-points of the NFL.

CUBA. — " These proposals are based on respect for the fundamental national rights of the vietnamese people and the principles laid down in the Political Program, and in the NFL's 5-point declaration...

" The people and the Cuban Revolutionary Government give full support to the NFL's ten-points "... said the Declaration made public on May 29 by the Cuban Foreign affairs Ministry.

GDR. — After he had received the text of the NFL's 10-point overall solution from Nguyen Nhu, Head of the NFL Permanent Mission in GDR, Willi Stoph, GDR Prime Minister said: " It is most necessary that the US should recognize the national rights of the Vietnamese people. Progress at the Paris four party talks solely depends on the readiness of the United States to seriously and realistically examine the new proposals of the NFL ".

BULGARIA. — Todor Zhivkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria when receiving Huynh Phan, Head of the South Viet Nam NFL Permanent Mission in Bulgaria in May 29, declared: " The government and the bulgarian people are of the opinion that the NFL's 10-point overall solution is constituted by realistic and constructive proposals for restoring peace in Viet Nam. If the US withdraw all their troops from South Viet Nam, the situation in Viet Nam could be settled immediately. "

POLAND. — On May 30, Marian Spychalski, President of the State Council of the Polish People's Republic, assured Tran Van Tu, Head of the South Viet Nam NFL Permanent Representation in Warsaw, of the full support given by the Government and people of Poland to the 10-point solution of the South Viet Nam NFL. He said: " The NFL's proposals are the basis for the achievement of the objectives of the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people - freedom, territorial integrity, sovereignty and self-determination. "

RUMANIA. — " The US must withdraw all its troops from South Viet Nam and let the South Vietnamese people decide their own destiny ". declared Nicolae Ceausescu, Chairman of the Council of State and President of the Socialist United Front of the Rumanian Socialist Republic when receiving Tran Hoai Nam, member of the South Viet Nam Nam NFL Delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

N.Ceausescu said: " We fully support the NFL's 10-point overall solution. It poses the problem in a very correct and very realistic way and constitutes a good basis for a correct solution to the South Vietnamese problem ".

MONGOLIA — In an interview given to the " New York Times ", T. Tsedenbal, President of the Council of Ministers of the PR of Mongolia, expressed his country's full support to the NFL's overall solution and considered it a logic basis for the peaceful settlement of the South Vietnamese problem.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. — In May, Torfthy, Vice-president of the Presidium of the CC of the National Front, Sediby, deputy-head of the international section of the CC of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, professor Stebaçowsky, President of the Peace Committee, and Heron, Head of the Asia department of the Foreign affairs Ministry of Czechoslovakia had meetings with Nguyen Van Vinh, charge d'affaires of the Permanent Representation of the NFL in Czechoslovakia.

They stressed that the Government and the Czechoslovakia people support this solution and demand that the US put an end to its aggression, respect the Vietnamese people fundamental national rights.

CONGO (B). — On May 24, Alfred Raoul, Premier and Acting President of the Republic of the Congo (B) declared that he fully supports the just resistance war of the South Vietnamese people and the NFL's 10-point overall solution.

WFTU. — At its closing session in Bucharest on May 30, the 36th meeting of the Executive Committee of the World Federation of Trade Unions adopted a resolution warmly welcoming the NFL's proposals and considered them a reasonable and logical basis for a solution to the South Vietnamese problem and the restoration of peace in Viet Nam and a good opportunity for the US to find a honourable way out so as to end its war of aggression in Viet Nam.

We resolutely support the African peoples' struggle

AFTER world war II, the national-liberation movement in Africa has gained ever more momentum.

To date, over forty countries in this continent have won independence. This is a far-reaching victory for the African peoples, the national-liberation movement and the struggle for independence, democracy, peace and social progress of the world peoples as a whole. This is also a heavy setback for colonialist imperialism and its agents who have over the centuries submitted the African peoples to savage domination and oppression.

Nevertheless, the imperialists of all plumage headed by the US, have not reconciled themselves to giving up their design on Africa where they still maintain a firm hold on wide resources. They are trying by every means to replace old-type colonialism by neo-colonialism. Taking avantage of the difficulties that many countries have to confront as the result of the former colonial rule, and using every perfidious manœuvre, they set out to preserve their existing interests and wrest new positions. Through the instrumentality of local reactionaries on their payroll, and under the "aid" label, the Americans leave no stone unturned to topple governments of independent countries which carry out a policy of active opposition to imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. They have brought to Africa thousands of their agents and spies specialized in sowing division among the people and engineering conflicts and coups d'état. They have staged armed intervention in the Congo, and come to the rescue of the French and Portuguese colonialists and South African racists (Apartheid) for the suppression of the people's movement for independence and freedom.

The revolutionary struggle of the African peoples who have achieved independence for the defence of their sovereignty and for national construction, just as the struggle for the completion of Africa's liberation, is bound to meet with many difficulties ahead. It is however unfolding forcefully as tidal wave.

Most striking in the present national-liberation movement in Africa is the revolutionary armed struggle waged continously and momentously in several parts of this continent still under the sway of colonialism.

While fighting against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism with US imperialism in the van, the African peoples make a worthy contribution to the common struggle of mankind for national independence, democracy, peace and social progress.

Our resistance to US aggression under the leadership of the NFL, have always enjoyed the deep sympathy and unreserved support of the peoples and many governments of Africa.

Recently, leaders of political parties in power, governments and mass organizations have warmly welcomed and strongly backed the NFL overall solution to the South Vietnamese problem to help restore peace in Viet Nam. This forms a new, very valuable expression of their militant solidarity with our people.

The National Front for Liberation and people of South Viet Nam highly rate and attach great importance to this support. On our part, as in the past we continue to step up the just liberation struggle of the fraternal peoples of Africa against imperialism and colonialism of the old and new patterns.

At the forefront of the fight against American imperialism here in Southeast Asia, the South Vietnamese people share the difficulties and hardships of the African peoples and, together with them and other peoples around the world, are doing their best to make an active contribution to the common fight against US scheme of aggression, domination and spoliation.

United in their struggle the African peoples will win !

Vietnamese Residents' Union hails NFL's ten-points

The Vietnamese Residents' Union in France fully supports the Political Program and the 10-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and regards it as the platform of struggle for the Vietnamese residents' movement in the present period.

Thus said the political resolution adopted at the recent Congress held in a Paris suburb to set up the Vietnamese Residents' Union in France.

The Congress was attended by 300 delegates representing 21 branches of the Union and other organisations of Vietnamese residents throughout France, according to VNA correspondent in Paris.

The delegates were honoured by the visit of Le Duc Tho, Special Adviser to the DRVN Government delegation, and Tran Buu Kiem, Head of the delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

Among those coming to greet the Congress were Tran Dinh Lan and Vuong Van Dong, two ex-colonels in the South Viet Nam puppet army, the latter having piloted an aircraft to bomb the " Independence Palace " of the late dictator Ngo Dinh Diem. They represented the " Viet Nam Free Forces ".

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